

PROGRAM

What is the 'local'? **Rethinking the politics of subnational spaces in Japan**

German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo

Thursday, October 18th

18:30h DIJ Forum: "The Politics of subnational spaces in Japan and China"

Speakers:

Carolyn Cartier, University of Technology, Sydney

Franz Waldenberger, Director, German Institute for Japanese Studies

20:00h Reception

Friday, October 19th

10:00h Panel I: Introduction

What is the 'local' in Japan? (Sonja Ganseforth, Hanno Jentsch)

Locality as container, field, and horizon: Does the concept help us to understand rural Japan? (William Kelly)

11:15h Coffee break

11:30h Panel II: (Re)Negotiating local communities

Localized, yet deterritorialized lives in rural Japan: 'Non-local' locals, ascriptions of 'locality' and negotiations between success and alienation (Susanne Klien)

Rural relating: Assemblage and cosmopolitics in central Hokkaido (Paul Hansen)

Home is where the hatred is: Rendering 'the local' through proximity and affect (Florian Purkarthofer)

13:00h Lunch break

14:30h Panel III: Commodifying the Local

“Are we embracing our terroir or just branding our own piles of dirt?”: Negotiating definitions of locality in the Yamanashi wine cluster (Aaron Kingsbury)

Regional brands and local identities – Tensions in tourism development in the Seto Inland Sea Area (Carolin Funck)

Differentiating the layers of agri-food locality: The politics of Geographical Indications in Japanese high-grade beef (Hart Feuer, Sekine Kae)

16:00h Coffee break

16:30h Panel IV: The cooperative dimension

Contesting multi-dimensional boundaries in fishery cooperatives (Sonja Ganseforth)

Boundary change: The impact of municipal and cooperative mergers on agricultural reform in Japan (Hanno Jentzsch)

18:30h Speakers' dinner (location tba)

Saturday, October 20th

9:00h Panel V: Local economic development

The possibility of regional economy as a unit of development in the knowledge-based economy: Evidence from a comparative regional institutional analysis (Endo Akira)

Local communities and regions in Japan: Strategies of revitalization and the role of med-tech partnerships (Susanne Brucksch)

Dissolving boundaries: The case of regional innovation clusters in Yamagata and their cooperation with German counterparts (Benjamin Rabe)

10:30h Coffee break

11:00h Panel VI: Layers of local governance

What happens when there are not even taxis anymore? Alternative concepts of local public transport, their possibilities and limitations (Timo Thelen, Oguma Hitoshi)

Village groups and their local embeddedness (Johannes Wilhelm)

Tapping or draining local resources? Looking at Japanese urban rural relations from the viewpoint of energy and sustainability (Daniel Kremers)

12:30h Lunch break

14:00h Panel VII: The Local in politics

The furusato nozei tax: Local place in national tax policy (Anthony Rausch)

Competing conceptions of local democracy reform (Ken Hijino)

15:00h Coffee break

15:30h Panel VIII: Local identities and place-making

Mapping local moral worlds: Social welfare and volunteerism in local communities (Isaac Gagné)

What is local? A contribution from the standpoint of globalization theory (Sanada Kie)

The meaning of local community for happiness and selfhood (Barbara Holthus, Wolfram Manzenreiter)

17:00h Coffee break

17:15h – 18:00h Final discussion